The Marker Lamp

Volume 57 Number 3 Fall 2011

Photo by Judith Neufeld

A good time was had by all at the convention. Due to space limitations in this issue, because of year end Board reports. Look for convention photos in the next *Marker Lamp*.

The Gulf Coast Limited

Houston June 13-17 2012

Mark your calendars now!

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The Marker Lamp

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National Model
Railroad Association

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The editorial policy of **The Marker Lamp**, the official publication of **The Lone Star Region**, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility.

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Articles appearing in **The Marker Lamp** are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of **The Lone Star Region** or **The National Model Railroad Association**.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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President's Message

They did it again! We enjoyed another great LSR convention in Lubbock thanks to the efforts of Dave Lamberts, Chairman, the very dedicated railroaders out there, and by many others from across the region that assisted them. An enthusiastic group of 130 guys, gals, and cabooses made the trip from as far away New York, Albuquerque and, would you believe, the country of Belgium.

An unprecedented amount of prizes were given away just by being at the Lubbock convention. There were train rides including rides in the cabs on the Durango-Silverton Railroad in Colorado, Cumbres & Toltec (with free dinner) in Chama, New Mexico, and Texas State Railroad. The immense power of advertising was proven since the intensive efforts increased the registration by 50% in the last month. Many thanks to Larry Swigert, Dave Lamberts (who became a darn good ad writer) and Matt Latham who got the emails out despite all sorts of blocks.

The next LSR convention will be in Houston starting on June 6, 2012. Bob Barnett, the chairman, is already highballing to make it an exciting event.

The past year has been a good one for the Lone Star Region despite what is happening in the world around us. One of the most outstanding feats is that the LSR membership has increased from 984 in January 2010 to 1,050 in June 2011. This is a net total of 66 new members for a 7 percent increase in 18 months. Nationally, the NMRA membership has decreased during this period.

The profound reasons why the LSR is doing so well are the wide varieties of efforts being done by the members throughout the region and divisions getting deeply involved with regular division meetings, breakfasts, shows, clinics, contests, tours, operating sessions, and general public events. *The Marker Lamp* articles and the reports to the Board tell about the many things going on for our members. The train shows in Houston, San Antonio, Dallas-Fort Worth, Louisiana, and many other places in the LSR area provide tremendous exposure to the general public and are certainly drawing in many new members. Who would have believed that from 3 to 30 new members could be signed up at these shows? Ask Jack Merkel in the Texas Hill Country about his recent successes. More than 50 clinics on a variety of subjects were presented in the region this past year.

To retain these new members (as well as the older members), many other interesting things are happening in our region. It's not always about the "smaller" trains either. Take Don Kimmell and Jim Norwood serving as elves on the KCS' Holiday Express. The live steam meets at Zube Park in the Houston area is another. These are wonderful ways to get the families excited about trains. The payoff is that some of these adults and kids will become new members in the LSR. We are fortunate again to have 4 deserving Youth Program recipients.

Thanks to all of you for making the Lone Star Region GREAT!

View from the Spar Pole

By Chuck Lind, MMR

This issue of the *Marker Lamp* is late, and it is strictly my fault, not the printer or the mail. While I was just starting to work on getting the *Marker Lamp*, organized and figure out the space needs on Saturday. We were rudely awakened at 2:30am Sunday morning July 17, when the ceiling in our living room fell down. I thought something hit the house. Everyone asks why? Well no known reason other than it was old. So this issue took a backseat to clean-up, finding contractors and working with the insurance company and their adjustors. I am just hoping that this issue turns out OK since finding anything in the house at this time is difficult. All the furniture had to be moved out of the area so it was placed on our front porch. I thought sure that would bring rain to the area, but no luck on that. The insurance folks felt the complete ceiling needed to be replaced, which we also agreed on, so for three days fellows on stilts (don't know how they do that) walked around bringing down all the old sheetrock ceiling and insulation in the living room, dining room and hall. What a mess, dust and dirt everywhere. Then up with the new sheetrock, tape and bed, texture and paint.

This gave Laurie the opportunity to get 2 new ceiling fans that matched, and new light fixtures for the dining room and hall, sure glad I bought that brass engine off EBay while I was in Lubbock.

As I am writing this column, always the last item done for the *Marker Lamp* it is now August 1. So the issue should go to the printer tomorrow. No pressure, we will be leaving to attend a family reunion/birthday in my old home town of Elgin, Illinois on Thursday of this week. For that occasion I have been working on a family history book with my cousin in Illinois for the past seven months and it should be ready at the printer tomorrow. Thank goodness it was just about complete when the ceiling fell. I had taken over the dining room table for the past seven months with this project and it grew from a couple of chapters into a 12 chapter book. Have I every mentioned I have a great wife to put up with me and my projects.

The Gulf Coast Limited

Division 8 is planning a party, a big party. Plans are well underway for the next year's Lone Star Region Convention to be held in Houston- June 13-17, 2012. We are planning:

- Layout Tours
- Operating Sessions
- A great Model Contest and Photo Contest
- Non-Rail tours, craft contests and clinics
- A great line up of clinics
- A Silent Auction
- A evening at Zube Park-Home of the Houston Area Live Steamers
- Prototype and Industry Tours
- A Layout Super Tour
- And a Lot More!!

So mark the dates **June 13 through 17, 2012** on your calendar. We're planning a big celebration and it won't be complete **without YOU**.

LADIES ONLY!

Petticoat Junction

2012 LSR NON-RAIL PROGRAM

This is July, so the 2012 LSR Convention will be in Houston in just 11 months and we promise to maintain our reputation of having some of the finest Non-Rail Activities. Included will be:

The ever-popular hands-on clinics

An optional trip to Galveston to the newly expanded and reopened Rainforest Pyramid at Moody Gardens and Lunch on the Isle

A surprise activity

Games including Bingo which I've heard has been missed.

Anything else that is fun that the committee can come up with. Believe me, this experienced committee will come up with a lot.

Of course don't forget the Arts and Crafts Contest. Let's have a record number of entries next year. You have a full year to create an entry, so there are NO EXCUSES. There are enough categories to cover ANY ENTRY you choose to make.

Speaking of categories, the "Theme" for 2012 is **"The Gulf Coast"**. Remember, all mediums are included in this category as are in the "Railroadiana" category.

Just make it…but start NOW.

Make your plans NOW to attend so you won't be left out of the fun.

Virginia Freitag and Committee

Contest Corner

Houston Contest 2012

While we didn't have a special category in Lubbock I want to announce that we will once again have one at next year's convention. The special category is all about animation. This is not intended to be a category of it's own but as a part of your model entry in their normal categories. Machines turning inside buildings, figures moving, animals moving, signs rotating…you name it. We just want to see it move. Each model will still be judged and scored for its normal category and the animation will be judged separately by a select team of Senior Judges from the Contest Judging Staff. Now, here comes the twist. You will want to make arrangements in your design so this animation runs off of batteries and has some sort of on/off switch or button to keep them from running down. We can't promise that there will be facilities to plug in to an electrical source. If you have an questions please feel free to contact me.

Duane Richardson, MMR
LSR Contest Chairman

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

by Tom Browning

For the Fourth Fiscal Quarter of 2010/2011

Beginning Balance 02/01/2011	
LSR Checking Account	$2,224.55
Vanguard CD Fund	$35,339.03
Total LSR Net Worth	**$37,563.58**
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth	
Funds Held For Division 1 $3,400.50	
Funds Held For Division 3 $1,450.89	
Funds Held For Division 4 $4,255.60	
*Funds Held For Zahn Donation $800.00**	
LSR Proceeds	
Vanguard CD Fund Interest	$4.12
Vanguard Convention Fund Interest	$1.69
Pike Ads	$76.00
NMRA Region Rebate	$983.00
Zahn Fund Yearly Funding	$200.00
Total Proceeds	**$1,264.81**
LSR Disbursements	
Youth Membership Program	$28.00
Marker Lamp Printing & Mailing	$1,364.36
Total Disbursements	**$1,392.36**
Net Proceeds/ Disbursements	**$-127.55**
Ending Balance 04/30/2011	
LSR Checking Accounts Total	$2,091.19
Vanguard Money Market Accts Total	$34,344.84
Total LSR Net Worth	$37,436.03
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth	
Funds Held For Division 1 $3,400.50	
Funds Held For Division 3 $1,450.89	
Funds Held For Division 4 $4,255.60	
*Funds Held For Zahn Donation $600.00**	

* These funds are restricted and will become unrestricted at $200.00 per year to comply with terms of donation.

At the end of March 2010 the membership was 1,038 and at the end of April 2011 the membership was 1,047. Please welcome our new members listed below:

April 2010

Jimmy Childers, Fort Worth, TX – 1
Robert Hunt, Aledo, TX – 1
James Buchtel, Baton Rouge, LA – 2
Cliff Bullock, Zachary, LA – 2
Steven Grigg, Port Allen, LA – 2
Edwin Poliakoff, Baton Rouge, LA – 2
Randel Bittick, Lubbock, TX - 5
Calvin Korab, Lubbock, TX – 5
Darrell Puckett, Shallowater, TX – 5
Charlotte Board, San Antonio, TX – 6
David Coates, San Antonio, TX - 6
Harry Jackson, Universal City, TX – 6
Robert Messier, San Antonio, TX – 6
Robb Penoyer, San Antonio, TX – 6
Robert Williams, San Antonio, TX – 6
Norman Buell, Jefferson, TX – 7
Paul Bolton, League City, TX – 8
Roy Flis, Houston, TX – 8
Dan Harriman, TX – 8

For the Fiscal Year of 2010/2011

Beginning Balance 05/01/2010	
LSR Checking Account	$2,756.87
Vanguard CD Fund	$35,506.85
Acct Receivable Due 2010 Convention	$2,000.00
Total LSR Net Worth	**$40,263.72**
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth	
Funds Held For Division 1 $3,545.87	
Funds Held For Division 3 $1,450.89	
LSR Proceeds	
Vanguard CD Fund Interest	$18.12
Vanguard Convention Fund Interest	$7.42
Pike Ads	$472.00
Decals/Patches	$96.00
Cars	$400.00
NMRA Region Rebate	$1,941.00
2010 Convention Advance Return	$2,000.00
2010 Convention Region Rebate	$234.00
2010 Convention Silent Auction	$94.00
2010 Convention Store (cars, etc.)	$238.00
Zahn Fund Yearly Funding	$200.00
Total Proceeds	**$5,700.54**
LSR Disbursements	
Youth Membership Program	$84.00
Marker Lamp Printing & Mailing	$5,010.31
Sec-Tres Expense and Postage	$128.42
2010 Convention Return Transfer to Vanguard	$2,000.00
Contest Materials and Form Printing	$423.95
Historian Expenses	$9.00
Achievement Program Postage and Copies	$13.05
Website Cost	$59.50
Set up Zahn Donation for restricted Funds	$800.00
Total Disbursements	**$8,528.23**
	$-2,827.69
Ending Balance 04/30/2011	
LSR Checking Accounts Total	$2,091.19
Vanguard Money Market Accts Total	$34,344.84
Acct Receivable Due 2011 Convention	$1,000.00
Total LSR Net Worth	$37,436.03
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth	
Funds Held For Division 1 $3,400.50	
Funds Held For Division 3 $1,450.89	
Funds Held For Division 4 $4,255.60	
*Funds Held For Zahn Donation $600.00**	

* These funds are restricted and will become unrestricted at $200.00 per year to comply with terms of donation.

At the beginning of May 2010 the membership was 989 and at the end of April 2011 the membership was 1,047, which represents a 5.9% growth. Congratulations Membership committee!

Minutes of the Lone Star Region Board Meeting
Lubbock, TX – June 12, 2011

President Bill McPherson called the Annual Board meeting to order at 9:53 am.

Roll call

All of the officers, directors and committee chairpersons were present except Director-At-Large Tracy Mitchell (proxy assigned to Division 8 Director Ray Byer) and Nominations Chair Gary McMills.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Director-At-Large Chuck Lind provided a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 6, 2010 Board of Directors meeting published in the 2010 summer issue of *The Marker Lamp*. Division 7 Director Don Kimmell seconded the motion, and the Board passed the motion.

Officers Reports

President Bill McPherson

Highlights of the president's report addressed the growth of the Lone Star Region's membership at 7% over the past eighteen months. Bill McPherson stated that that growth could be attributed to hard work of many people at both the region and division level. He also stressed the importance of retaining the membership and sighted a number of specific methods used. On a final note Bill McPherson noted the very good results of promoting major events such as the CaprockXpress Convention of 2011.

Secretary/Treasurer Tom Browning

The Secretary/Treasurer's report, which had been submitted to the Board members prior to the meeting, was summarized. The beginning balance as of May 1, 2010 (Fiscal Year 2010-2011) was $40,263.72, and the ending balance on April 30, 2011 was $37,436.03. This balance excludes amounts held for Division 1, Division 3, Division 4 and the Walter Zahn donation that become unrestricted funds at $200.00 per year. The membership of the LSR beginning May 2010 was 989 and ending April 2010 was 1047. In a supplemental report, Tom Browning pointed out the significance of having membership at its highest and past dues at their lowest for the month of February and August because that is when the NMRA establishes the NMRA rebate amount due the region.

Directors Reports

Division 1 Director Chris Atkins reported that the division continues to hold meetings alternating between the LMRA and the Texas Western clubhouses where several distinguished members provide clinics. Division 1 participated in the Ft. Worth Holiday Train Show and the DFW Interchange events. Chris Atkins recognized Bob Mangrum's work in obtaining his MMR. Also receiving and deserving recognition is Dustin Lambert who is Division 1's youth representative.

Division 2 Director Dick Schneider reported that the division has been busy not just with model railroading but also with volunteering to help those affected by the Mississippi river flooding. Weekly Saturday morning breakfast meetings continue in Baton Rouge and Lake Charles with the possibility of adding another breakfast group in Covington, LA.

Division 3 Director Jerry Hoverson reported that Division 3 has a new name, Trinity River Division and a new logo. T-shirts are in the making. Attendance at the division meetings continue to grow due to the excellent meeting content and promotion. The May meeting was "over-the-top" as the meeting was a combined effort of the Trinity River Division and the North Texas Narrow Gauge group with over 100 attending from all over the state and a number from surrounding states. The Trinity River Division nominated Cliff White for their youth and his brother Ben White was nominated by the Officers and Directors-At-Large.

Division 4 Director Jack Merkel reported that the division was able to recruit two new members into the LSR at the Centra Mod and Austin Jamboree train shows. The division has started quarterly meetings at the Round Rock City Library. These meetings included clinics, prizes and layout tours. Membership Co-Chair, Larry Swigert and Tom Pearson provided guidance and assisted in generating interest in attending.

Division 5 Director Dave Lamberts provided a verbal report that Division 5 has been busy preparing for the 2011 CaprockXpress convention.

Division 6 Tom Crosthwait reported that Division 6 activities were mainly divided among three organizations, San Antonio Railroad Association, San Antonio N-Track and Alamo Model Railroad Engineers. Each of the organizations holds monthly meetings with clinics covering a wide variety of interesting topics. Wayne Hammelman of Division 6 is working with Division 4 to have joint meetings.

Division 7 Director Don Kimmell reported that the division membership level remains steady at approximately 33. Division covers 863 square miles and makes division meeting difficult to conduct. The local train shows in Longview, Tyler, and Marshall, Texas are natural gathering places for informal meetings. Don Kimmell has conducted three Boy Scout merit badge orientations in the area and has conducted a clinic at the National Train Show on the use of water on a module at the request of Woodland Scenics.

Division 8 Director Ray Byer no report submitted.

Director-At-Large Duane Richardson no Director-At-Large report provided.

Director-At-Large Chuck Lind report provided. Chuck Lind announced that in 2015 a Narrow Gauge convention in Houston at about the same time as the LSR convention. This will cause a shortage of people to help put the conventions on and he suggested that that another time slot might be considered for another Host.

Director-At-Large Tracy Mitchell no Director-At-Large report provided.

Department Reports

Achievement Chair Al Boos reported the following achievement certificates were awarded during the past year:

MMR – Tom Browning, #455, Robert G. Mangrum, #456, Steven Barkley, #463

Volunteer – Steven Barkley, Robert G. Mangrum, Michael Jobe Jeffery Liedl

Prototype Models – Joe L. Batson

Structures – Joe L. Batson, Charles Kirk, Michael Jobe

Cars – Steven Barkley, Steven Blackson

Engineer, Civil – Steven Barkley, Joe L. Batson, Fred H. Holland, Bill McPherson

Dispatcher – Steven Barkley, Arthur Penny, Tom Browning, Joe L. Batson, Chuck Lind, MMR, John T. Bailey, E. J. Merkel

Engineer, Electrical – Joe L. Batson, E. J. Merkel, Bill McPherson

Scenery – Joe L. Batson, Steven Barkley, Bill McPherson

Golden Spike – Karl Lester, David L. Cummings

Al Boos asked that the Board start thinking of how to deal with the preponderance of AP materials that has accumulated during the last several years. The amount of material is becoming more than he has room for.

Contest Chair Duane Richardson reported that the 2011 CaprockXpress Convention went well but his costs were climbing. He intends to review the costs and methods of creating the awards. He also is going to write up contest procedures to assist future Hosts and Chairs.

Convention Chair Bill McPherson distributed updated copies of his report showing the attendance, income, expenses, and profit/loss comparisons for the LSR conventions from 2001 through 2010. From this data in this report it can be determined why some conventions are successful not only from the events offered but also from the attendance and financial standpoints. The future convention schedule is Houston - 2012, Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex – 2013, and possibly a wild-card location for 2014.

Dispatcher Matthew Latham reported that the available stock of Company Store materials has now reached $295.00 and not much remains.

Historian Chair Jim Long reported that materials cost has risen but that he continues to make all attempts to hold costs down. He is in most need of inexpensive binders for *Marker Lamps*.

Nominating Chair Gary McMills did not submit a report beyond the most recent elections reported in the previous *Marker Lamp*. Bill McPherson reported the results of the recent election.

Publications Chair Chuck Lind reported that four *Marker Lamps* were produced this past year. Chuck Lind stated that it is important that material to be published should be ready to publish and not sent to him in an incomplete condition that requires him to do substantial rewriting. There is a need for new contributors of articles and photos for publication since some of the contributors are not longer available.

Website Chair Duane Richardson submitted no report

Parliamentarian Bob Mangrum had no report

Youth Chair Bob Mangrum reported that he sends bi-weekly reminders to each member of the Board to consider eligible and deserving young people to be nominated as their division representative. Additionally, articles are submitted to the *Marker Lamp* to announce new nominees and promote the Youth Membership Program. For the recruiting year 2010/2011 the following youths are now enrolled:

Division 1 – Dustin Lambert of Ft. Worth

Division 3 – Cliff White of Tyler

Division 8 – William "Skyler" Bohn of Orange

Officers/Directors-At-Large – Ben White of Tyler

Membership Co-Chairs Larry Swigert and Mike Jobe reported the membership in the Lone Star Region is significantly up while many other regions are down. The reason for this increase in membership is contact with the members. When people show up in the past due section members are contacted to attempt to identify why and to let them know that as a region "we care". Another reason that membership is up and retention is up is that divisions are becoming increasingly active with meeting that include clinics, tours and door prizes. A leading reason for the LSR membership increase is signing new people at train shows.

Events Chair Bill Dryden no report submitted.

Photography Chair Dave Lamberts announced that Chuck Lind was acting as LSR photographer for the 2011 CaprockXpress Convention since he was performing the duties as Host Convention Chair.

Education Chair Tracy Mitchell reported that three Boy Scouts merit badge clinics were conducted and that over twenty clinics were reported during the pasted year.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill McPherson announced that Bob Mangrum has been appointed Parliamentarian for the Lone Star Region.

Chris Atkins provided a motion and seconded by Jerry Hoverson to ratify the youths nominated and approved by email. Those youths are:
Division 1 – Dustin Lambert of Ft. Worth
Division 3 – Cliff White of Tyler
Division 8 – William "Skyler" Bohn of Orange
Officers/Directors-At-Large – Ben White of Tyler
The motion passed.

The budget as approved for 2009/2010 and actual results were described in detail by Secretary-Treasurer Tom Browning. The total incoming for the period was $5,700.54 of which the largest was $2,000.00 to repay the loan for the San Antonio 2010 convention loan, next largest was $1.941.00 for the NMRA membership rebate, then $566.00 convention profit, pike ads for $472.00 and a final cars sales from the company Store for $400.00. Expenses for the region were a total of $7,528.23 of which $5,010.31 was for the Marker Lamp, next largest was $1,000.00 loan to the 2011 Lubbock convention, then an $800.00 adjustment to the accounting system to restrict the Zahn donation and $423.95 for contest expenses. The net loss was $1,827.69 which was $1,392.31 better than budgeted.

Bill McPherson reported in great detail on the results of the San Antonio 2010 Convention and noted that the reporting format was changed to make the results easier to read and understand. The cost per person of the convention was higher than other previous conventions and consequently caused a low profit. This cost is typically tied to the hotel where the convention is held. Chris Atkins asked what might be the lessons learned from this experience. Al Boos spoke to this issue and indicated that they had forecasted more attendants than they actually registered and this was the chief cause for the low profit. Bill McPherson discussed at length methods of keeping costs down so that the convention can make a profit. He also suggested that the three officers provide oversight on the contract with the hotel. After much discussion the general consensus was that promoting the convention was the key to getting the attendance as high as possible. Matt Latham discussed email communications for promotion, at length and Chris Atkins suggested the LSR consider a program or service that can make email communications easier and more effective. Matt Latham and Chris Atkins were asked to form a group to research the issue and provide recommendations at the next BOD meeting.

Ray Byer raised the question of the need to assess the level at which the Convention fund is kept. After some discussion it was decided to postpone the review of the Convention fund level and related issues until the next BOD meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Chuck Lind provided a motion and seconded by Dick Schneider to ratify the results of the recent election of the following officers and directors:
Elect Bob Barnett – Vice President
Reelect Bill McPherson – President
Reelect Tom Browning – Secretary-Treasurer
Reelect Chris Atkins – Division 1 Director
Reelect Jerry Hoverson – Division 3 Director
Reelect Dave Lamberts – Division 5 Director
Reelect Don Kimmell – Division 7 Director

Duane Richardson provided a motion and seconded by Dick Schneider to destroy the ballots from the preceding election. The motion passed.

Chuck Lind provided a motion and seconded by Duane Richardson to adopt the proposed budget for 2011/2012 as amended after a detailed analysis and discussion. The motion passed. The highlights of the adopted budget are as follows: total incoming is budgeted at $5,201.00 of which the largest is $2,000.00 for the NMRA membership rebate, next is $1,500.00 for the 2011 Lubbock convention, then $1,000.00 to repay the loan the 2011 Lubbock convention and $450.00 for pike ads. The total expenses budgeted is $9,581.00 of which $5,611.00 is for the *Marker Lamp*, the next largest is $2,000.00 for the loan to the 2012 Houston convention, then $500.00 for the contest and $500.00 for membership expenses and $300.00 for the youth program. The net loss is $4,380.00.

Bob Barnett reported to the Board that progress is being made on the 2011 convention in Houston and that all but one committee chairs have been assigned.

Duane Richardson provided a motion to adjourn which was seconded by all. The motion passed, and the board meeting was adjourned at 11:33.

Up The Track

By Bill Dryden

Here is the list of the upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA Scale Rails and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via e-mail at **bdr149@airmail.net**. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. **The upcoming events**:

LSR Convention:

Lone Star Region 61th Annual Convention (2012)
Houston, TX
The Lone Star Region NMRA 61th Annual Convention will be held in Houston. Check the LSR website. **Come all!! PARTICIPATE!!!**

Recurring events and meetings:

LSR Division 3 - Northeast Texas Division - Monthly Meeting
Garland
Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin St., Garland, TX. Third Saturday of each month. For more information contact Jerry Hoverson (jhoverson@tx.rr.com) or check the Division 3 Page on the LSR website.

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers Meeting
San Antonio
The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers, Zucht Building, Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio, TX. Second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777 or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

Houston Area Live Steamers
Houston ,TX Area
HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Peter Bryan at peterb@pdq.net for more information.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs Meeting
Irving, TX
The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the third Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or member clubs.

Events and Shows:

August

20th Lone Star Division – Train Collectors Train Show & Swap Meet. Sat. 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $6, Family $9. Holiday Inn Select, 700 Central Parkway East, Plano, TX. For more information, contact Pat Halpin at (210) 661-4238, e-mail: pathalpin@aol.com.

20th Houston Area Live Steamers Public Run Day. Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Address and contact information above.)

20th – 21st 18th Annual New Braunfels Summer Train Show. Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $6, Children 17 & under Free. Knights of Columbus Hall, 111 Landa St., New Braunfels, TX. For more information contact Jason Wahl at (830) 660-4278, e-mail nbtrainshow@gmail.com.

20th – 21st The Great Train Expo. Sat. and Sun. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $7, Children 12 and under Free. Castine Center, 63350 Pelican Drive, Mandeville, LA. For more information: http://www.trainexpoinc.com/schedule.html.

September

17th Houston Area Live Steamers Public Run Day. Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Address and contact information above.)

17th – 18th Centra-Mod 29th Annual Temple Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Adults $5, Children 12 and under Free with Adult (discounts for seniors and active duty military and dependents with ID). Frank Mayborn Convention Center, Temple, TX. For more information, contact Jim Bush (254) 542-7728. Check for show updates at www.centramod.com.

October

1st Gulf Coast Chapter TCA Toy Train Show & Swap Meet. Sat. 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Adults $6, Family $9, Children 12 and under Free. Cypress Creek Christian Community Center, 6823 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX. For more information, contact Carl Olson (281) 277-7630.

8th – 9th LMRA 29th Annual Model Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Adults $7, Children 10 and Under Free with adult ticket. Lockheed/Martin Recreational Area, 3400 Bryant Irvin Road, Ft. Worth, TX. For more information, contact: http://www.lmra.org/activity.html.

8th – 9th Houston Railroad Museum 2nd Annual Big Texas Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. George R. Brown Convention Center, 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX. For more information, call (832) 675-1905 or www.bigtexastrainshow.com.

8th – 9th LMRA 29th Annual Model Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $7, Children 10 and Under Free with adult ticket. Lockheed/Martin Recreational Area, 3400 Bryant Irvin Road, Ft. Worth, TX. For more information, contact: http://www.lmra.org/activity.html.

15th – 16st The Great Train Expo. Sat. and Sun. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $7, Children 12 and under Free. Austin Convention Center, 201 East 2nd Street, Austin, TX. For more information: http://www.trainexpoinc.com/schedule.html.

31st Austin Area Model Railroad Jamboree. Sat. 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Clinics starting at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Subjects announced at show. Layout tours through the afternoon and evening, maps available at registration. Adults $5, Children $1. Family $10. First United Methodist Church, 1004 North Mays St., Round Rock, TX. For more information call Tom Pearson (512) 388-2918.

November

5th – 6th Texas & Pacific Railroad Museum Annual Model Train Show and Shopping Extravaganza. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Adults $5, Children 12 and under Free. Marshall Civic Center, Marshall, TX.

12th – 13th North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs 26th Annual Fort Worth Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8, Children 12 and Under Free with adult ticket. Amon G. Carter Exhibits Building, Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster Avenue, Fort Worth, TX. For more information: www.dfwtrainshows.com.

January 2012

15th – 16th North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs 26th Annual Dallas Area Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8, Children 12 and Under Free with adult ticket. Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX. For more information: www.dfwtrainshows.com.

Sam Brendle Youth Scholarship

By Tom Browning for Bob Brendle

Over the past six years **Bob Brendle** has donated more than $2,500 to introduce young people into model railroading and to the NMRA. Bob's father, **Sam Brendle**, introduced Bob at a very young age by taking him to a convention. Over the years I have come to appreciate Bob for what a great and generous person he is. This year Bob's work schedule did not permit him to be here now. So I had the honor of introducing this year's recipient of the Sam Brendle Youth Scholarship.

Bob and I got acquainted with **Eric Hershman** at the Ronald McDonald Train Exhibit in Dallas last year. Eric stayed busy endearing himself to all of us involved with the Exhibit and he became our Junior Engineer. His mom stood by for hours while Eric "worked" the trains. Eric has become a member of the NMRA and attends the Trinity River Division monthly meetings. One month his comes with his mom the next month with his dad.

Below are excerpts from Eric and **Teri Hershman**: "We are still talking about the Lubbock convention … we had so much fun. Eric will remember this convention for the rest of his life ... it was such a meaningful event for him! He is about to turn 9 on July 12th. He is entering 3rd grade. Model railroading is by far his favorite activity. He just purchased a train simulator with the money he received from the tooth fairy after loosing his 6th tooth! (It was a very inexpensive one but it's awesome!) He has been playing it non-stop. Besides playing with trains, Eric loves to ride bikes and swim. He also loves to watch airplanes and play with his RC car. Eric and his dad recently found a hobby shop in Carrolton that has an indoor racetrack for RC cars, and they love it!"

"In Lubbock, we tried to do as many activities as possible. Right after we arrived we went on the tour to Pyco Industries, and we both found it so interesting. Eric's favorite part, of course, was watching the trains in the switching yard! That night we went to barbecue at the Windmill Museum, which was so much fun. We walked around and saw all the windmills. Eric's favorite one was the modern one that was laying down, where he could see the components pretty well. The next day we went to the Ranching Heritage Center. Eric enjoyed seeing the old train station, the engine, and the train cars. On Friday afternoon we went on the layout tour and really enjoyed seeing the layouts. We saw the Garden Railroad layout, which was loads of fun. The man and woman who own that layout were very gracious and let Eric run their trains! We went to one or 2 other layouts on that day (including David Lambert's) and then ended up watching a movie for the evening ... we were tired! On Saturday we went to the Harvey House in the morning, which was fun and interesting for both of us. We saw the layout in town, and then we went to see a few other layouts that afternoon. We did a lot of driving and saw every layout possible ... Eric loves to see them and all the hosts and hostesses were so welcoming! The Saturday night banquet was a great way to wrap up the weekend. We enjoyed hearing about the awards and hearing about the high speed railroad in Texas. By Sunday, we were tired but loved the breakfast ... and Eric was so excited to be recognized as the scholarship recipient. In summary, it was a FANTASTIC long weekend and a really special experience for Eric. Thanks again for everything! *Teri"*

Let's Make Sure We Give Another Youth The Experience Eric Hershman Had!

Hope each of you is keeping as cool as possible; hope for rain and lots of it!

It's never too early to nominate a representative from your division for the youth program. Division 8 has already nominated their youth representative for next year, and since that Division is involved with the up-coming convention in Houston, I can understand why Ray got a jump on the process.

If there is anything I can do to help the process email or call me. Remember that we need DOB, address and, if a member of NMRA already, their member number.

Robert G. Mangrum, Ph.D.

About Collecting

By Tom Browning

Many model railroaders enjoy collecting various things relating to real and model trains. Some folks collect brass models, others collect rolling stock for their favorite road, some collect steam engines and the list goes on from there. For a while I collected green rolling stock (MKT and BN) and I do not know why except it may have been during the time I was trying to settle on a specific aspect of model railroading.

A turning point came not long after I joined the NMRA/LSR. This opened the doors to a vast array of knowledgeable people about all aspects of model railroading. I also became active in my division and soon the region. I began meeting people from all over the region and they quickly became friends.

Without realizing it at the time I began my collection in earnest. I was collecting friends. Looking back to my "green" collection, I now see that my best collection is friends. This collection of friends continues to grow and I look forward to each new friend. Think about your collection and I bet that you have a similar collection but maybe you never thought about it from this point of view. One nice thing about a collection of friends is that you never run out of room like a fifty year collection of mint condition magazines.

The latest in my collection of friends is Walter Zahn. I have known of Walter for several years because of his generous contribution to the Lone Star Region. This donation is intended to help fund the convention contest expenses over a five year period. Walter has also taken on the task of reviving the Rail Pass Exchange not just for our region but for the entire NMRA. Walter and I recently had lunch where I finally met him for the first time. His heart is as big as all out doors and I am delighted to add him to my collection of friends.

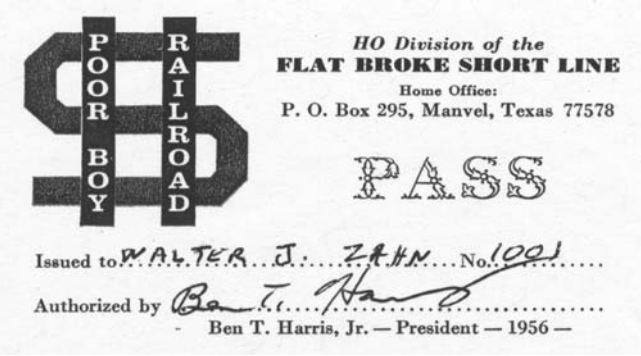
Pass Exchange

There seems to be an interest in the Lone Star Region to bring the Pass Exchange program back to life. Walter Zahn has decided to work on renewing interest in this program. If you are interested in participating please send him 2 samples of your pass and in return you will get a pass and a list of Active pass exchangers. Walter will review the passes and send a pass of the quarter that will be displayed in the *Marker Lamp*.

Please help Walter get this program moving again. Send you passes to:

Walter Zahn
3309 Point East Drive
Mesquite, Texas 75150-2645

PASS of the Quarter


POOR BOY RAILROAD
HO Division of the
FLAT BROKE SHORT LINE
Home Office:
P. O. Box 295, Manvel, Texas 77578
PASS
Issued to WALTER J. ZAHN No. 1001
Authorized by
Ben T. Harris, Jr. — President — 1956 —

This months pass is sent in by Ben T. Harris, Jr., P.O. Box 295, Manvel, Texas 77578. It is printed on good quality white card stock in three colors and has company rules printed on the reverse side.

Company Store Inventory as of October 15, 2010

All cars sold out.

Other items available
Cloth Region Patches $5.00 each (Only LSR Life – 35 avail.)
Auto/Window Region Decal $ .50 (10 avail.)
N Scale (13 avail.) Nevadun Decals $2.00 per sheet
HO Scale (8 avail.) & N Scale (22 avail.) Daw Cha Southern Decals $3.00 per sheet

Shipping
Please add $1.00 for patches and decals
Matthew Latham, Dispatcher
2320 Hickory Leaf Lane
Flower Mound, TX 75022-4945
972-358-6168
E-mail: wnrailway@yahoo.com

Cowcatcher Division 1
by Chris Atkins
Email: chris@railroadermodelers.com
Phone: 214-222-1285
Web:http://cowcatcherdivision.com

Hi all, hope you're staying cool in this Texas heat. This is probably the first one of these summer reports that I have not written on the road since I became the Division 1 director. We put off our annual trip until August this year, so we'll be on the road by the time you read this. Hopefully I will have gotten some railfanning in along the way.

As usual, in June we had the LSR annual convention in Lubbock. I know a number of you made the trip, but for those who missed it, the group in West Texas put on a great show. A few of the highlights were visiting the beautifully restored Harvey House in Slaton as well as the Lubbock Windmill Museum and touring the Cotton Mill. Who knew that vegetable oil came from cotton seed? I stayed an extra day to visit Texas Tech with my daughter and we were treated to an authentic Caprock sand storm Sunday night.

Right before the convention, we met at the Texas Western club for our May meeting. Our own Matt Latham presented his clinic "Two Feet to Tide Water. Modeling a Maine Two Footer in O Scale." Matt did a great job, and really inspired the group to visit Maine and get a first hand look at their little steam trains.

As I write this, the next meeting is in two Saturdays. By the time you receive this, it is behind us and the next meeting will be in September. We'll shoot for the third Saturday again, but no plans have been made. If you have a suggestion for a meeting topic, shoot me an email. Speaking of email, you should be receiving email notices of the meetings. I recently merged all my email lists into a single database using a service called Mail Chimp. This will allow me to better manage the list of members and allow you to add, remove or modify yourself. Many of the email addresses were no longer valid, so hopefully we can clean those up and everyone can receive notices.

It's already time to start thinking about a youth sponsor for next year. If you have a child, grandchild, neighbor or acquaintance that has an interest in model trains that you think would be a good nominee, let me know.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting. If you have any questions or suggestions, you can contact me at chris@railroadmodelers.com. More information can be found at http://cowcatcherdivision.com

Bayou Division 2

by Dick Schneider
Email: trains42@aol.com
Phone: 337-364-6931

It feels a bit strange writing for this issue as part of this article is being written before attending the Convention, to tell you what a great time we all had at the convention. Ponder that for awhile.

Actually, I can now write about this year's convention in Lubbock, TX. The clinics were well attended and well received by conventioneers. There were only a few layouts, but the general attitude of our members took this minor inconvenience in stride and had a great time. Model RR's are use to creating their own versions of how they see the world and Lubbock gave them a countryside quite different from what they normally see. I'm sure some will see the advantages of this scenery and apply the principles to their layouts.

The Bayou Division, though small in size, has a lot going on. I met with Marvin Ackerman, Dave Edel, and Benoit LeClerc of the Crescent City Model Railroad Club (CCMRC) in Metairie, LA to see how the club was handling its venture into remodeling its layout and installing DCC. The club is doing well, though it has a few glitches to overcome. The major one we are familiar with…dwindling membership. They are down to 10 members and the majority of these are advanced in years making it difficult for them to crawl under the layout to carry-out some of the necessary wiring. The reconstruction of the old mountain area is *basically* completed, track installed and the DCC is operable. The scenery is yet to come. They conducted a test run during their Open House on June 4, 2011, and the DCC operated as expected.

Lou Schoultz, of Covington, LA, held an operating session Saturday, May 28, 2011, running steam only. Never have I seen so many Alleghenies on one layout. Other locos were running, but the Alleghenies captured your attention. Some were assigned as head end power on coal trains while others were assigned as pushers. Lou's layout is humongous. Lou's operating session was very successful and all went home well satisfied.

Art Houston also held two separate operating sessions this quarter. Both went extremely well. Art has gotten to almost all of the bugs in his system and it is working quite smoothly. All attendees had a great time and fully enjoyed Art's hospitality. Art even provide hamburgers and hot dogs and all of the trimmings for the session on the 4th of July weekend. Carol, his wife, is to be commended for her hospitality.

The MidSouth MRC held two operating sessions open to all and one for members only. All were well attended. The signaling program continues to move ahead smartly and the end of that project is in sight, most likely within a year.

As you can see, the Bayou Division is alive and well. Our membership is slowly increasing and the weekly breakfasts are gaining in popularity. Come join us when you can. Until then "Laissez les bon ton rouler!" – "Let the good times roll!"

Trinity River Division 3

by Jerry Hoverson, MMR
Email: jhoverson@tx.rr.com
Phone: 972-540-5315

Summer is definitely here and it's HOT! Well, did you make the CaprockXpress in Lubbock? If you did, I'm sure you had as good a time as I did and if you didn't you missed a great time.

Our monthly meetings continue and we've had some great ones. I missed the April meeting because we were celebrating our 43rd anniversary on a cruise but I want to express a huge THANK YOU to Larry Swigert, Mike Jobe, and Duane Richardson for filling in and carrying on in my absence. Together they presented a great "hands on" weather clinic.

The May meeting was over the top! The Trinity River Division combined forces with the "North Texas Narrow Gauge" group and held a joint meeting with close to 100 attendees, 5 clinics, 4 layouts to visit, a raffle, and 2 "Deal or Dud" drawings where several hundred dollars of items were given away thanks to Discount Model Trains, The Cumbres & Toltec RR, the Texas State RR, Soundtraxx, and Blackstone Models. It was an ALL DAY event.

Then came June and a week after the convention we held our meeting at the "Able Springs & North Texas" railroad. Never heard of it? It is a Live Steam layout in Terrell, Texas, owned by Jack Haskins. Jack was hosting an operating session and graciously agreed to allow the division come out and see "how the big boys" do it. Even though it was over 100 degrees the turnout was great. Jack put on extra cars on the passenger train so everyone got to "ride the rails". Several even got to crew on some of the freight trains.

Cliff and Ben White, two of our youth members, working as "brakemen" on a freight train switching the grain silo.

As you can see we're having a ball at our monthly meetings, so come on out and join us! We have been meeting at the North branch located at 3845 N. Garland Avenue while the main branch undergoes some renovations. We will be at the North branch at least through September. We still meet on the third Saturday of every month at 10:15. Keep watching for the email reminders I send out with the upcoming agenda a week or two prior to the meeting. **If you are not getting this email notification** I don't have your current email address. Please

send your information to me at jhoverson@tx.rr.com so I can include you and you can join us for all the fun!

Take care all and keep "working on the railroad" but most of all get involved with the division and have some railroading FUN!

Cen-Tex Division 4

by Jack Merkel
Email: ElmerMerk@aol.com
Phone: 512-355-3289

The Caprock Express convention was excellent. I began by meeting **David Barrow** at the Harvey House in Slaton. We spent some time there at the Slaton yard and then went downtown to see the HO gauge railroad built by **Bob Mamlok** and others. Part of this railroad is based on the ATSF at Slaton. Also, in the same building, is a restored CTC machine which was used on the ATSF from Farwell to Slayton. The machine is in excellent condition and has a mannequin dispatcher as part of the exhibit.

We then went on to Lubbock. t the convention I attended several excellent clinics. We attended a good presentation at the Pyco Cotton Seed Oil Mill which described all the processing from cotton seed to finished oil. We then toured a frac sand unloading operation. This is a small industry that would fit into any model railroad. We saw some railroad action nearby as a local train was completing its switching and was headed back to the yard. This train had a locomotive on each end as there is no runaround track in the area. The train needed a lead locomotive to whistle several grade crossings on the way to and from the yard.

I spent Friday evening as a judge in the contest room. If you plan to scratchbuild rolling stock, structures and bridges, a good place to start is contest judging. This gives you a good feel for the criteria the judges are using in rating your model.

Dave Lamberts and his crew put on a fine convention.

We had a Division 4 meeting on April 30 at the Round Rock City Library. Our clinician was **Mike Barrett** who treated us to many photos describing Howe truss bridges on the SP RR. Mike described the construction methods and modeling techniques for these bridges. We had a social time, show and tell with several structures, bridges, and a railroad car. Following this, we had our Deal or Duds program based on gift certificates from Kings Hobby Shop. We then toured **Chuck Ellis's** Great Northwestern and Pacific RR. Chuck has expanded his railroad and it now includes a large mining pit. His railroad includes floor to ceiling mountain scenery, several bridges, thousands of trees and many scratch built structures. **Dick Sowash** has been working on details for the city buildings in Great Falls. We also signed up a new member – **Bob McCall.**

Our next Division 4 meeting will be on Saturday, Sept 10 at the Round Rock City Library. We will begin at 12:15 pm. The later than normal start is due to room availability at the library. **David Peterson** will be our clinician. David will describe his model railroad which is on a train simulator. We will tour **Steve Blackson's** G scale railroad which is designed for operations. We will also tour two other G scale railroads nearby.

We do all communication about our Division 4 meetings via email. If you are not receiving emails about our Division meetings, that means I do not have a valid email address for you. Please send your email address to Elmermerk@aol.com.

David NiCastro continues work on his D&RGW RR and has completed his signal system including CTC panel. He hopes to begin holding operating sessions this fall.

Looking ahead, the CentraMod train show will be on Sept 17/18 in Temple and the Austin train show will be on Oct 29 in Round Rock.

Until next time, try an operating session. You will like it!

Division 5

by Dave Lamberts
Email: DavidWL1944@aol.com
Phone: 806-792-7244

I trust everyone had a good time at the Caprock Xpress convention in Lubbock. It was a great deal work to put on, buy very rewarding as well.

Some data:

Members:	103
Spouses:	26
Thursday BBQ	96
Saturday Banquet	144
Sunday Breakfast	139

We also had great turnouts for the Harvey House tour and the PYCO tour. Turnout for the non-rail events was lighter than I anticipated (seven for flower arranging and eight for scrapbooking). All in all I felt it went well and it was good to see so many old friends.

Our club has just begun a new project – "Make a Module." It was the idea of Joe Price, one of our members. Starting in July, construction begins on a module of scale and gauge at the discretion of the member. Each month a different part of construction will be done. The first month will be construction of the base, and next month will be laying and ballasting track, etc. The project is to go six months, and when completed, the modules will be judged by popular vote to pick three winners.

This seems like a great theme for a model railroad club to peruse – build a railroad!

Division 6

by Tom Crosthwait
Email: t.crosthwait@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 210-647-3261

Even with an air conditioner in the train room and shop it's hard to spend more than just an hour or so there. I hope everyone is managing the heat well.

SAMRA member Pat Mackin will be hosting another Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge clinic in July. Every three months, Pat and several assistants open the doors of the Bob Clarke Rail Heritage Center for approximately thirty scouts, the scout leaders and parents. Each of the young men takes their turn at the different areas of the museum for their instruction, followed by questions and answers. Pat has been hosting this event for several years now. Scout leaders are waiting in line to get their groups through the presentation. Many thanks go to Pat for such an important undertaking.

I had a new kind of rail fanning experience on the trip to Lubbock and back. Actually, I had been doing this unconsciously for many years. The scouting expeditions were not so much about the trains, locomotives and cars, as it was the surrounding area. John Lowrance and I attempted to decide what types of businesses were along the tracks in the smaller towns along the way. Of course many of the buildings are abandoned or used for something other than the original business. Some businesses were obvious, others not so much.

Grain elevators and storage in each and every town and no two are alike.

Do you know your geology? You don't really have to know geology to observe the hills and how they fit with each other and the valleys in between. Notice how rock formations stay at the same level from hill to hill no matter the difference in the height of the tops of the hills. The cuts made for highways would be the same for a railroad. Did you ever notice from a distance how the top line of the hill will continue as though the cut were not there?

All of these things can be noted and transferred to the scenery on your railroad.

David and his team did a nice job in hosting the LSR convention in early June. Thanks Dave!

Division 7

by Don Kimmell
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Phone: 318-798-7718

Hello again from "melting" North Louisiana, a perfect time to do some indoor, A/C modeling!

In case you missed this year's convention, it was another great one! David, Liz and all the wonderful folks, who live out in "that" part of Texas, did a great job. Only complaint might have been the weather-it was HOT! - But otherwise, another memorable convention. The clinics were very informative, the Windmill Museum unbelievable, and the Harvey House really neat. Only down side, it was a long and hot trip! Sorry if you missed it.

OK, upcoming events: First weekend in November will be the T & P Museum's Annual train Show in Marshall. While this is not one of those "big city" shows, they always roll out the carpet and make everyone welcome, so if you are in the area, November 5th & 6th, stop on by and say hello.

For those folks who are interested, Dr. Kamm's Sue Lines is now up to speed (pardon the pun). Most of the issues have been worked out after the installation of the new DCC system, and the regular Thursday night secessions are ongoing.

On the KCS' Holiday Express front, as I understand it, this years schedule is now winding its' way thru the various corporate departments. Hopefully it will be posted fairly soon on their wed site.

That is all I have been able to find out on area goings on, this heat wave seems to have everyone laying pretty low….too hot to do much else! So Play Trains !!

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Ray Byer
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Well the summer is good and hot. If you did not make it to Lubbock you missed a good convention. As you all know Division 8 has a new MMR, great job Steve Barkley. In Lubbock at the convention contest room, we have more to report. A father (Barry) and future MMR (Blake) team did will well. Then we have the husband and wife team (Mike and Leslie). They entered their first LSR contest and did will. Leslie received the Linda Little Award that can only be given to the ladies who enter a model in the contest. If you missed this convention, I am sorry. But you do not need to miss the next one. It will be in Houston next year, so you need to start making plans and models for this one.

Division 8 is running a monthly clinic at the Houston Railway Museum on the third Saturday of each month. Please check the division web page for more information on date and times. In October, we have the Big Texas Train Show again, so mark your calendar for this event. Also we the annual picnic at Zube Park and home layout tours going on. This will end this report for now, so keep modeling and stay cool.

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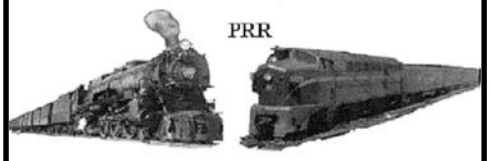
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